

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: January 30, 2002

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on January 25, 2002

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Regional Administrator

David A. Ullrich
Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by training/conferences and stakeholder feedback:

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Region 5 Regional Response Team Meeting, Chicago, Illinois

On January 23 and 24, 2002, there was a meeting of the Region 5 Regional Response Team at the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Region 5 office in Chicago, Illinois. The meeting attracted approximately 50 attendees, including representatives of the six Region 5 States. The agenda included discussions on the World Trade Center/Anthrax Incident Command System by Len Zintak (U.S. EPA Region 5); Washington, D.C., Technical Response Activities by Mark Durno (U.S. EPA Region 5); Homeland Security Support Team & U.S. Postal Service Response by Helen Duteau (U.S. EPA Headquarters) and Virginia Narsete (U.S. EPA Region 5); Rail Transportation of Hazardous Materials by Bruce Mibeck (U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration); and, Foot and Mouth Disease Overview by Dr. Greg Bovard (U.S. Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service). The next meeting will take place in May of 2002. The location of that meeting will be decided in the near future. The U.S. Coast Guard will be the host agency.

Contacts: Sheila Calovich (312-353-1505)
Len Zintak (312-886-4246)
Virginia Narsete (312-886-4359)

Meeting (Natural Resource Damages), Department of Interior

On January 24, 2002, Bill Muno and Larry Schmitt met with Mike Chezik and Darrell Robertson of the Department of Interior (DOI) to discuss coordination regarding ongoing Superfund work in Region 5. Mike Chezik is the designated DOI contact for all required notices regarding Natural Resources Damages. Overall, he wants to improve both the timeliness and amount of information that he receives from the Region 5 Superfund program. Mr. Muno and Mr. Schmitt agreed to provide him quarterly computer reports using a format that was developed by Region 3. In addition, Mr. Muno and Mr. Schmitt agreed to evaluate a sample notification letter that he provided at the meeting. The possibility of having more formal meetings with DOI on site-specific issues was also discussed. Finally, Mr. Chezik was given copies of some updated Region 5 guidance memoranda that addressed several of the topics of the meeting. Mr. Muno and Mr. Chezik both made a commitment to work more cooperatively together in the future.

Contacts: Bill Muno (312-886-7578)
Larry Schmitt (312-353-6565)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Recognition (Ralph Dollhopf), Helping to Establish an In-House Response Network to Address Anthrax Contamination, U.S. Postal Service (USPS)

In a January 24, 2002, email to Rick Karl, Tom Dunne, Jim Makris, and Elaine Davies, Mark Mjoness, OERR Senior Process Manager for the National Superfund Removal Program, wrote the following (HHS is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services):

"I just wanted to take a brief moment to let you all know about the outstanding work being performed by Ralph Dollhopf, Karen Burgan and Terry Brubaker for EPA and the National Response Team.

Since our Organizational NRT meeting with USPS, HHS and the NRT member departments/agencies on January 8, we have instituted a National Coordination Center with USPS and HHS to support and oversee the technical responses at the remaining USPS facilities requiring additional sampling and/or remediation. The NCC has also formed up various workgroups around the NRT draft anthrax technical direction document chapters (sampling, remediation, health and safety, etc) with the overall NRT document group having its first meeting yesterday. Ralph, Karen and Terry have

made these things happen.

Ralph is preparing an update of all the activities conducted by the NCC, to date, as well as the plans for addressing the inter-agency NRT anthrax technical document. We will take this information and include it in a OERR Special Report on Friday January 25, to update management on the continuing EPA/USPS/HHS coordination on the remaining anthrax responses. Thanks"

Contact: Ralph Dollhopf (734-692-7682)

Recognition (Steve Renninger), Efforts During Anthrax Incident, U.S. Postal Service, Indianapolis, Indiana

In January 2002, Steve Renninger received a letter of recognition from the U.S. Postal Service thanking him for his efforts during the recent anthrax incident at the Critical Parts Center in Indianapolis, Indiana "Especially your expertise in handling and managing a decontamination of a facility as well as your overall contribution to quality assurance of the activities of several agencies and contractors."

Contacts: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)
Steve Renninger (513-569-7539)

cc: Marianne Horinko (OSWER)
Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers